



Montana Fact Sheet

The move to online assessments gives rise to a distinctive set of opportunities for school technology. The Technology Readiness online tool will give Montana schools a convenient way to capture and report on indicators of their technology readiness for the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), working with the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) and Pearson, have developed the Technology Readiness Tool to support states as they transition to next-generation assessments.

This open source tool will help state education agencies, including the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), work with schools and districts to ensure readiness when the online assessments are launched by the two consortia, beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

The Technology Readiness Tool assesses current capacity and compares that to the technology that will be needed to administer the new online assessments in four areas:

1. Computers and other devices
2. Ratio of devices to test-takers
3. Network and infrastructure
4. Personnel (staffing and training)

Proposed Actions and Timeline

April 2012:	OPI will upload Montana district and school organizational data into the Technology Readiness Tool
May 2012:	OPI will conduct a test of the Technology Readiness Tool with a small group of districts that represent the unique qualities of Montana schools
June 2012:	Next steps will be determined for implementation of the Technology Readiness Tool with all Montana districts and schools
Fall 2012:	Minimum system requirements will be developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

If you have questions, please contact the Montana State Readiness Coordinator (SRC). OPI SRC: Colet Bartow, (406) 444-3583, cbartow@mt.gov.

Visit the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment Web page for additional information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. <http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/GetReady.php>

